

Residents to make their votes count

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Ex-Alton pupil shoots to Britain's Got Talent fame - page 2

CHILDREN'S HOMES PLAN

CHILDREN'S homes across Hampshire are to be knocked down or sold before being rebuilt based on a successful flagship children's home in Basingstoke.

Proposals to completely overhaul the county's children's homes to make them smaller and more family friendly were agreed on Tuesday.

Rather than having six homes caring for six or seven children at a time, the council will have eight homes each with space for four children.

The plans are based on a suc-

By **Katriona Ormiston**
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cessful children's home in Basingstoke called Cypress Lodge, which has four beds.

Over three months last year police were called to Cypress Lodge twice and six-bed children's home Glendalyn 19 times.

The measures were agreed by Hampshire County Council's executive lead member for children's services, Keith Man.

He said: "Children in care are among the most vulnerable in any community and we regard their care as one of our most important responsibilities."

"The physical environment in which a child lives has a direct influence on their self esteem and confidence."

He added the plans: "Will make a real difference and help contribute to the children's emotional well-being and positive outcomes as they move on to independence."

"It will be important to ensure that the homes will be comfort-

able places to live and that the children will feel safe, secure and happy."

Children in Cypress Lodge are in full time education with 95 per cent school attendance.

Whereas in Glendalyn most of the children are in part-time education with poor attendance.

The report states there are "significantly better outcomes achieved by children in a four-bedded environment".

It added: "The children at Cypress Lodge have better engagement with health care agencies and have much lower

rates of substance misuse.

"Helping to protect children from harm and neglect, instances of violence and aggression within the smaller four-bedded children's home are much lower."

Ofsted judged Cypress Lodge as outstanding and Glendalyn as unsatisfactory in their last inspections.

Crossways children's home in Basingstoke - which is currently empty - is to be sold along with Glendalyn and another Hampshire home called Godbey House to raise £2.6million.

Four new homes would be built

and two demolished and rebuilt as four-bed homes.

Basingstoke's only other children's home, called The Mead, has already been refurbished to five bedrooms and will stay as it is.

The houses are to look unlike any other house - with a front door, front garden, fireplace and en-suite rooms.

Of 1,130 children in county council care, 33 are in children's homes - the majority are placed with foster carers.

The sites of the homes cannot be printed for safety reasons.



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TV stardom for garage assistant

A FORMER Alton College pupil who shot to fame on Britain's Got Talent hits TV screens again on Sunday to find out if he made it to the live semi-finals.

Michael Auger, 24, was working at a car garage in Woolmer Way, Bordon, when he auditioned in February as a member of operatic boy band Collabro.

He and band mates Richard, Matt, Thomas and Jamie moved judge Amanda Holden to tears and sparked a standing ovation

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from crowds at the audition aired on April 12.

Fans find out on Britain's Got Talent on Sunday if they have made it through to the live semi-finals of the show the next day.

Alton College, where he studied from 2006 to 2008, has pledged to support Collabro all the way.

Michael said: "It has been quite exciting seeing peoples reaction - some people have recognised me at the petrol station."

"And we've done some stuff

with Heat and Now magazines. It is strange but really cool, I don't believe it is happening."

"I really can't wait for Sunday to be here because that's when everyone knows whether we get through or not - we can't say anything about it which is really hard to do."

The band - who have been dubbed the next One Direction - wants to go on to record songs after the ITV show.

After their rendition of Stars from Les Miserables Amanda Holden said: "Oh my God, you have reduced me to tears."

"I could just burst with pride for you because that was bloody

brilliant."

Simon Cowell added: "I thought when the five of you came out, 'here we go again, another boy band'. But it was an absolutely brilliant audition."

Michael, who grew up in Petersfield in Hampshire, is now working part-time and travelling to London to rehearse.

The band, who only formed one month before their February audition, have already had almost five million YouTube hits.

Michael, who has clocked up more than 6,900 Twitter followers, posted a selfie of the band on the site on Tuesday.



• (Front) Michael Auger posted this selfie with band mates on his Twitter page on Tuesday

Knife-wielding thief threatens for £5

A MAN was robbed at knife-point for five pounds cash while walking home by a Basingstoke railway bridge.

The 57-year-old victim was threatened by a man with a knife for money next to the bridge between Norn Hill and Basing View.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the crime, which happened between 10.45pm and 11.05pm on Monday, March 31.

The victim handed over what he had, a little over £5.

The man then fled with another

man from the crime scene.

The first is described as white, in his late teens, 5ft 11ins tall with broad shoulders. His face was covered with a scarf, and he was wearing a black puffy coat with the hood up and a cap underneath.

The second was white, of skinny build, and in his late teens, a bit younger than the first.

An e-fit of one of the men has been released.

Police have stepped up patrols of the area.

Anyone with information is

asked to call Detective Constable Andy Panter at Basingstoke police station on 101.



News Bites

Resident awards

VOLUNTEERS across Basingstoke will be celebrated at an awards ceremony on June 3.

The 41 community helpers will get certificates for their efforts from newly made Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Roger Gardiner.

The ceremony, held by Basingstoke Voluntary Services (BVS), will take place at the Council Chamber in the council's London Road offices.

Operational manager of volunteering at BVS Sarah Robinson said: "It's so inspiring to see the range of people - governors, scout leaders, drivers, youth leaders, befrienders and many, many more. "Anyone can volunteer and this is an opportunity to say thank you to those people who have made such a wonderful contribution."

Deaf awareness

BASINGSTOKE MP, Maria Miller has promised to write to all the doctors in her constituency, asking them to make healthcare accessible to deaf people.

She made the promise after learning about the everyday struggles deaf people suffer at an awareness event at Parliament on May 14.

The event at Portcullis House, the MP's office building next to Parliament, took place ahead of Deaf Awareness week this week.

Traffic warning

CAMPAIGNERS are warning roads will not be able to cope with cars from 100 extra homes around Down Grange.

The Down Grange Action Group is calling for people to oppose the 100 houses earmarked for the area in the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

Residents across Basingstoke can give their feedback on where houses will be built over the next 15 years at a public consultation until June 13.

It allocates where 6,940 homes are to be built on sites across the town.

To see the plan go to basingstoke.gov.uk/go/localplan

Comments can be submitted online or at the council offices in London Road or by calling 01256 844844.

A Government planning inspector will then have to approve the plans.

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MP calls for rescue of abducted children



BASINGSTOKE MP Maria Miller and female colleagues joined a world-wide campaign call to rescue more than 200 young schoolgirls abducted in Nigeria.

Ministers lined up outside the Houses of Parliament in London last week holding up letters to support the Bring Back Our Girls campaign.

The missing girls were taken when Boko Haram militants stormed government girls secondary school in Chibok on April 18, loading the girls into lorries and driving them away.

The Government in Nigeria was accused of doing very little until the news hit media across the world.

Mrs Miller said: "Along with most people in Basingstoke I am appalled by the events in Nigeria, where young girls have been kidnapped by Boko Haram."

"I very much welcome the work that has been done by the Government already and support the work with the Nigerian authorities to end this

By **Katriona Ormiston**

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terrible situation and Bring Our Girls Back."

A team of UK experts who will advise and support the Nigerian authorities in its response to the abduction touched down in Abuja, Nigeria on May 9.

The team is from departments including the Government's Department for International Development, the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence.

They will work with the Nigerian authorities to stop abductions and terrorism in Nigeria.

The team will focus on the current kidnappings, how to stop attacks in the future, and ways to defeat Boko Haram.

Maria added "This horrific incident is another example of why the all possible efforts must be made to bring an end to sexual violence in conflict."

"The UK will be hosting a global summit in London next month to help countries improve the way they tackle the consequences of sexual violence in conflict and make sure that those responsible are called to justice. I am pleased to say that Ministers recently persuaded Nigeria to join that campaign."

Victim runs after robber to get phone

A MAN hit from behind and robbed in a church car park chased the thief and got back his phone and bag.

The 44-year-old was on the phone walking to his car at St Mary's Church in Paper Mill Lane, Alton, when he was attacked at 9pm last Tuesday, May 13.

He was hit by a man and fell to the floor before the thief stole his phone and rucksack and fled down Paper Mill Lane.

The victim chased the robber, who dropped the bag and mobile phone.

A woman who was also there may have been involved in the crime.

Detective Constable Marcus Baker, from Winchester and East Hampshire CID, said: "I'd like to speak to anyone who witnessed this incident or saw two people matching the description of the offenders running from the scene."

The man is described as large, white, about 18 to 25 years old, and between 5ft 10 and 6ft tall.

He was wearing a dark top with a hood which was up around his head and a light coloured scarf around his face. He also wore light trousers and trainers.

The woman is described as white, 18 to 30 years old, 5ft 3 to 5ft 5 tall, of average build with long dark hair down to her lower back. She was wearing a dark leather jacket, dark jeans and shoes and was carrying a white plastic bag.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.



Dragon launches festival

A GIANT smoke-breathing dragon will mark the start of Basingstoke Festival next week.

A procession led by the five-metre dragon sculpture of dancers and drummers will start outside Debenhams at Central Car Park, known as the Banjo, from 12.45pm.

It will make its way up Wote Street to Market Place for a 20-minute per-

formance from 1pm.

The dragon will be joined by dancers from Basingstoke-based North Hampshire Academy of Dance performing a specially-choreographed piece.

The main programme of more than 100 events for the third festival runs from June 20 to July 13.

The dragon procession, by Dragon

Heart Beats street theatre company, will launch the start of the festivities.

A second performance will show from 5.30pm in Market Square.

The dragon and dancers will be back at Basingstoke Festival's family weekend at Top of the Town on Sunday, June 29, for Midday and finale performances.

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By-election wards:

Brighton Hill South
Baughurst and Tadley North

Residents to make their votes count

Thousands of people are expected to vote today in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council elections. Katriana Ormiston looks into the make-up of the current council and why it is important to vote.

TODAY'S local elections give residents the chance to have their say on who makes the big decisions on their behalf.

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council is the responsible for many of the day-to-day services people use such as council leisure centres, housing, and waste collection, as well as economic development, council tax, spending, the environment and planning in the Borough.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has 60 elected councillors and is currently Conservative-controlled.

The Tory's have 29 seats to Labour's 13, Liberal Democrat's 11, the Independent's four seats and UKIP's one.

In today's elections one third of the council – 20 wards – is up for election, and by-elections will be held for vacancies in Brighton Hill South and Baughurst and Tadley North.

A total of 89 candidates are vying for 22 seats to represent residents in wards across the town.

Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, UKIP, and Independents candidates have all put themselves forward.

The elected councillors will serve until May 2018.

But the councillor elected in the Brighton Hill South by-election will serve until May 2016, and the councillor elected in the Baughurst and Tadley



North by-election will serve until May 2015.

There will also be eight parish council elections – five councillors are to be elected for Ashmansworth, eight for Burghclere, 10 for East Woodhay, seven for Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green, four

for Highclere, five for Newtown, four for Penwood, and nine for St Mary Bourne.

Polling hours on Thursday, 22 May 2014 will be from 7am until 10pm.

Everyone registered on the electoral role with a seat up in their ward can vote.

The count for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council elections will take place after 10pm on the day.

All the times for the parish council election counts have not yet been set – but the Newtown and St Mary Bourne parish council elections have been organised for Friday, May 23, 3pm.

To see a list of all the candidates and polling stations go to basingstoke.gov.uk

European parliament elections

BASINGSTOKE'S residents are also set to vote in the European Parliament elections today.

The city is within the South East region, which, as well as Hampshire, covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Voters will elect a total of 10 members to the European Parliament out of 119 candidates who have put their names forward.

Among those is UK Independence party leader Nigel Farage who is already an MEP.

The other nine South East MEP's are Daniel Hannan, Richard Ashworth, Sharon Bowles, Keith Taylor, Njri Deva, Marta Andreasen, James Elles, Peter Skinner and Catherine Bearder.

Fighting for their positions at European Parliament are 10 Labour candidates, 10 Conservative, 10 Liberal Democrat, 10 UKIP, 10 Green, 10 BNP's, 10 Socialist Party of Great Britain, three Liberty GBs, 10 Independence from Europe, nine Christian Peoples Alliance, 10 Peace, three Your Voice, one Roman Party and one Harmony Party candidate.

Residents will be asked to choose one party to vote for and all details of where to vote will be printed on the polling card.

Candidates are urging residents to go out and vote today:

LIB Dem candidate John Barnes, up for election in Brighton Hill South, said: "We would not be a democratic country if people didn't vote."

"A lot of people say they can't be bothered, but you only have to look at the news to see that in other countries people are being stopped from voting."

CHAIRMAN of Basingstoke's UKIP branch Alan Stone is standing in the Basing ward.

He said: "It is incredibly important – particularly this time because there is actually a real choice – there are three or four candidates in each of the wards."

CONSERVATIVE group leader Terri Reid is up for election in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.

She said: "It is absolutely vital, we want to urge them as much as possible – the best way for them to be represented is to use their vote."

LAURA James, leader of the Labour Party for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, is up for election in Norden ward.

She said: "It is important people go out to vote to then elect the people who make decisions."

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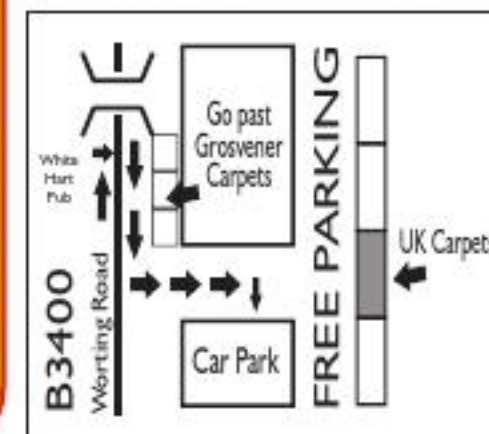


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Number of unemployed drops by 600

UNEMPLOYMENT in Basingstoke has fallen by nearly 600 people in the last 12 months, new figures show.

The statistics revealed on Monday show the number of people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance in Basingstoke has fallen from 1,117 by nearly 600.

Basingstoke MP Maria Miller said: "For too long, there were not the right incentives and the right support to help people get a job. The latest unemployment figures show that here in Basingstoke 600 people no longer have to rely on claiming unemployment benefits and can look forward to a more secure and brighter future."

"With the economy growing, and jobs being created locally like at the new Parcelforce depot, and in new retail stores like Home Bargains and Dunelm Mill, it's clear that the long term economic plan is working, and here in Basingstoke the foundations of a broad based recovery are in place. There is more to do, but we need to stick to the plan, which is creating jobs, and delivering a more secure future for people in Basingstoke who want to work hard and get on in life."

Parcelforce Worldwide opened a depot in Grafton Way last year with more than 100 jobs. Homeware store Dunelm Mill opened in Gastons Wood, Chineham, in November, and Home Bargains opened in Old Winchester Road on May 10 this year with about 40 jobs.

Work has begun on disability building

THE first bricks were laid this month for a new £2.4million care centre in Winklebury for people with disabilities.

The building will give adults with physical and learning disabilities and their families short breaks.

The state-of-the-art centre will have six bedrooms for six guests at a time, a sensory room, a quiet area, and outside spaces.

Leader of Hampshire County Council Roy Perry and executive member for adult social care Liz Fairhurst helped lay the first bricks on May 9.

Builders from the contractors Morgan Sindall have finished the foundations, put up the framework and built up the walls.

Councillor Fairhurst said: "Throughout the planning, we have worked with people who use our services to ensure that the new building will meet their requirements and offer an environment in which they will be

By **Katriona Ormiston**

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happy. Once complete, it will provide a comfortable home-from-home and allow family and carers to take a break in the knowledge that their loved ones are being well looked-after."

A consultation with families, carers, and disabled adults revealed the services were much needed.

Councillor Perry said: "We are facing significant challenges in meeting the increasing and changing needs of people requiring care and support."

"This new respite centre is one of the ways we are transforming care, to provide a wider range of residential, respite and community services to meet people's needs."

The centre will serve people across North Hampshire.



• Leader of Hampshire County Council Roy Perry and executive member for adult social care Liz Fairhurst lay the first bricks for the new north Hampshire respite centre in Winklebury for people with disabilities

News Bites

Town festival

ALTON'S festival kicks off on Saturday with live music, bouncy castles, and children's activities.

The Town Park Festival, in Alton's public gardens on Saturday, May 24, runs from 10am until 8pm.

Busking invite

BUSKERS are being invited to Basingstoke Festival this year for a competition to find the town's talented entertainers.

Performers are being urged to flock to Basingstoke on July 5 and 6 to fill the town centre with music and street shows.

The busking weekend, dubbed Top Hat weekend, will set-up a series of 'busk stops' across central Basingstoke.

At the end of the weekend awards will be made to the best music and non-music performances.

Basingstoke Festival co-ordinator Julia Tymukas said: "Top Hat is an exciting new feature of the Basingstoke Festival, and will bring a whole new level of street-based shows to a wide audience."

Any interested buskers can register to take part online at basingstokefestival.co.uk until June 13.

Roadworks

THE M3 from junction 4a at Minley to junction 5 at Hook will have narrow lanes and 50mph limits until early August.

Work to replace the bridge deck joints is underway on both carriageways.

Lane closures will be in place between 10pm and 5am.

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Charity Santa Sun Run

CHRISTMAS will come early to Basingstoke next month as fundraisers dress up as Father Christmas to raise money for a charity's second annual Santa Sun Run.

The 5km run, jog or walk at Down Grange Sports Complex in Pack Lane on June 29, is in aid of children's charity Sebastian's Action Trust.

The second annual event kicks off a month of fundraising for the charity - which runs The Bluebells holiday home for seriously-ill children.

Event co-ordinator Hannah Lambart said: "We were pleased to see so many people join us for our first summer Santa Sun Run last year and we hope to build upon last

year's success. Last year we saw families come together, groups of friends, colleagues and individuals taking part.

She added: "Although this day will be a great event, it also has a much deeper meaning."

"Sadly for many of our families a lot of children we support may not be able to celebrate Christmas in December."

"That's why we have brought Santa on holiday and encouraging as many people as possible to help us raise vital funds which will help the incredible children we support."

Entry is £10 for adults, £5 for children and free for under 5s. Runners will be given a Santa hat on the day and urged to wear red.

Raising a glass to Basingstoke beer

A BREWER is celebrating after his Basingstoke beer won a top prize in the Champion Beer of Britain awards.

Phil Robins, 42, from Chineham, said it marked the moment he knew his gamble to abandon office jobs and become a brewer paid off.

The prize went to his beer called Lamplight Porter made at Longdog Brewery in Basing-

By **Katrina Ormiston**

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stoke's West Ham Lane.

It took the silver in the London and South East region Champion Beer of Britain competition in the Porter category - second only to Fullers London Porter. The dad-of-two raised a pint

at the Queens Arms in Bunnion Place on Friday with landlord Nick Allen and North Hampshire's Campaign for Real Ale's co-ordinator Phil Myatt.

Mr Robins said: "I am absolutely thrilled, I'm very proud of it. It is a bit of a milestone moment."

"It is a cracking beer, but this just shows other people think so too."

"It has been difficult, because there is more to running a brewery than just brewing beer but after three years of hard work it is paying its way now."

The Lamplight Porter has coffee and chocolate flavours and gets its bitterness from English hops.

It is a rich, dark ale like the popular Porters made famous in the 1800s in London.

Mr Robins started Longdog Brewery in August 2011 when he was made redundant from his telecoms office job of 17 years.

He had brewed beer at home for 25 years and thought up thousands of recipes over that time.

Mr Robins has since brewed 270,000 pints from three fermentation vessels at Longdog Brewery.

His wife Lisa Robins joined the business in October 2013.

Mt Myatt said: "It's brilliant, it is quite a big deal really."

"We don't get that many local beers winning these kinds of awards - out of 11,000 UK breweries about two-thirds brew Porters so it is a tough competition."

"To have a Porter in the area which stands up against the rest is really great."

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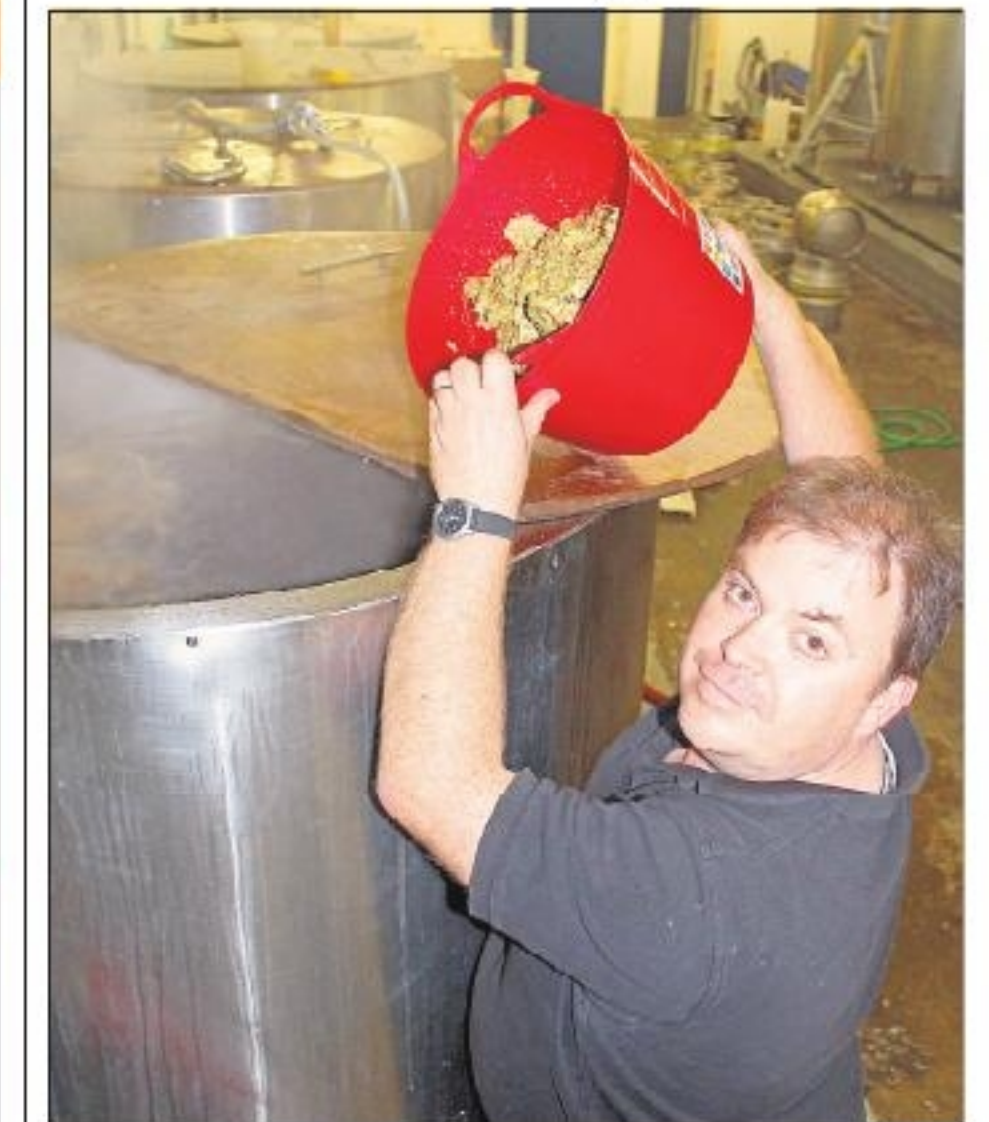
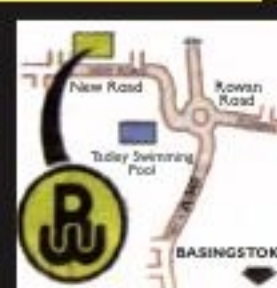
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Cash boost to help run town arts projects

A BASINGSTOKE arts company have been given £3,500 by Hampshire County Council for a training and development project.

Kala the Arts, based at Basingstoke College of Technology in Worting Road, was awarded the one-off grant on May 15 to employ a project coordinator.

Keith Chapman, Hampshire County Council's executive member for culture said: "Kala the Art's community programme promotes diversity through vibrant workshops for young and old, some of whom who have never danced, sung or played a musical instrument in their lives."

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk on 01235 516930

or email news@basingstoke-observer.co.uk

News Bites

Business awards

THE launch of an annual awards ceremony for businesses across North Hampshire is set for June 3.

The annual Inspire Business Awards, run by Destination Basingstoke, celebrates their success and the contribution they make to the economy.

Businesses are invited to the launch hosted by Rushmoor Borough Council at the Smith Dorrien building in Queen's Avenue, Aldershot from midday until 2pm.

For more details or to register go to inspirebusinessawards.co.uk.

Staff celebrate

STAFF at a Basingstoke-based recruitment company are celebrating a workplace award.

Swanstaff Recruitment, which has offices at Basing View, was named one of the UK's best workplaces in the medium-sized company category by The Great Place to Work Institute UK.

The institute surveys about 6,000 organisations around the world for the award.

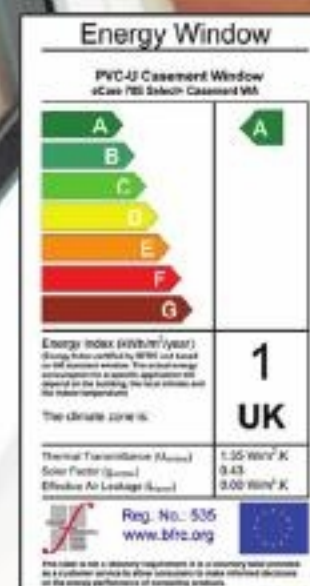
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Heat warning

PARAMEDICS are warning people to stay safe in hot weather.

The call from South Central Ambulance Service - which covers Hampshire - comes after temperatures reached more than 24 degrees on Sunday and Monday.

SCAS is warning people to drink plenty of water, use sun cream, and not to jump into rivers.

Numbers up

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the winners of its latest lottery draw from May 16.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 42153 of Chineham, while ticket 61601 of Kempshott claims second prize of £100.

Third prize of £50 goes to Basingstoke ticket 95169, and Basingstoke ticket 00267 gets fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen prizes of £5 go to tickets 01417, 03218, 04739, 05321, 11607, 18085, 26240, 34603, 52130, 61040, 66406, 69283, 77735, 84716, 88522 and 95151.

Doctors in crisis

GP services across Hampshire are facing crisis a medical committee called on Monday.

Their appeal comes after a survey of 1,400 GPs across by The Wessex Local Medical Committee (WLMC) across Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, the Isle of Wight, Bath and North East Somerset.

It found 540 GPs intended to retire or leave in the next two years.

Review of bus cuts down to final week

A REVIEW of bus service cuts to save more than £1million across Hampshire ends next week.

Basingstoke residents have until May 31 to give their feedback on the town's bus routes and timetables.

Some services could be cut or reduced to save Hampshire County Council between £1.25 to £1.5million from public and community transport spending by 2015 to 2016.

Commercial bus services within the borough and the centre shuttle are run by Stagecoach.

The county council spends £4.7 million a year supporting bus services and £1 million on community transport services.

Leader of Hampshire County Council Roy Perry said: "It's important that we look carefully at how we allocate funding in order that it is used fairly on behalf of Hampshire's council taxpayers."

"The County Council currently spends over £4million every year on subsidising bus routes which are considered financially unviable by the commercial operators."

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By Katriona Ormiston

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"Our local enhancement to the national concessionary fares scheme which provides older people with free bus travel from 9am instead of 9.30am, costs an extra £300,000 - bringing its total cost to £13million a year."

"Depending on the outcome of the consultation we could look at special provision in those locations where there is no bus service after 9.30am."

"We are asking residents to comment on how we can best support public and community transport, and shape services within the available budget."

The council is considering reducing or stopping their funding of Sunday services, services after 7pm, stopping the 9am start for elderly bus passes, reducing the frequency of services or days of service, and replacing bus services with taxi shares or community transport services.

The council cuts are part of the 12 per cent savings to be made because of Government cuts.

Go to hants.gov.uk/transportconsultation2014 for an online form or visit your library form.



Town's favourite tourist traps on new map

A NEW map drawn up by artists highlighting the best of Basingstoke will be launched next month.

It pinpoints 14 attractions in and around the town for visitors and residents to visit.

Called Places to Go, Things to Do, the map features: The Anvil theatre, Basing House, Basingstoke Canal, Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Central Studio theatre, Festival Place shopping centre, Haymarket theatre, Jane Austen's house, Milestones museum, Proteus Creation

Space theatre company, Sandham Memorial Chapel, The Vyne house, Whitchurch Silk Mill, and the Willis Museum.

Artists Kev Mundy and Katie Smith, based at Proteus Creation Space in Council Road.

Project leader and manager of Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Sarah Gray, said: "Everyone is thrilled by both the fun, artistic design and the clear message this map gives out."

"Basingstoke is steeped with interesting attractions and there is something for everyone right

on our doorstep. "We hope this new map will help visitors plan future days out and remind them how much Basingstoke has to offer."

"Kev and Katie have done an excellent job in illustrating the buildings and presenting them in such a clear way."

Funded by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, the project will produce postcards and an online map. It will be unveiled at Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place on Wednesday, June 18, at 2pm.

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Hundreds of families risk losing homes

FAMILIES in 690 homes in Basingstoke and Deane are at risk of eviction or repossession, new figures have revealed.

The figures show Basingstoke and Deane came eighth out of 67 regions across the South East where people are most likely to lose their homes.

It means one in 100 homes across Basingstoke and Deane are under threat.

The statistics, published by housing charity Shelter on Tuesday, are based on the number of possession claims issued in county courts from April 1 last year to March 31 this year.

A possession claim is court action taken if a house tenant or mortgage holder can't pay - the first stage in a process which can end with a family losing their home.

Households in Slough were most at risk in the South East at one in 62 homes, while homes in Wokingham were least under threat at one in 324.

Shelter's chief executive Campbell Robb said: "These staggering figures show just how many families in the South East go through the trauma of learning that their home is at risk, every single week."

"People are hearing that the economy is

By **Katriona Ormiston**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

recovering, but we're seeing the reality that many families across the country are still battling to keep their heads above water and keep their homes. Just one thing such as a job loss or serious illness can tip any of us in to a downward spiral that puts our home at risk."

The charity is stressing people must get advice as soon as possible to prevent debts from spiralling out of control.

Shelter's free advice helpline takes more than 480 calls a day.

Liz Clare, helpline adviser for Shelter, said: "We're hearing from a growing number of people who have reached crisis point and picked up the phone, often with the court papers in their hand."

"It's natural to hope mounting bills and arrears will go away, but the best thing to do is get expert advice straight away. There's absolutely no shame in getting help and a specialist adviser can help you see the light at the end of the tunnel."

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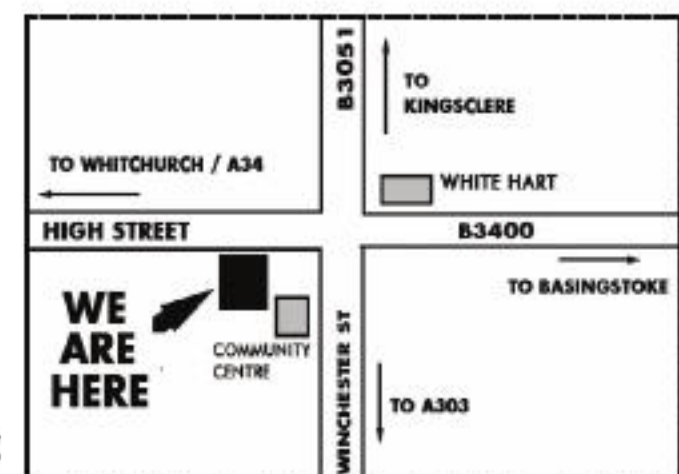
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News Bites

Help for victims

TWO firefighters from Hampshire have flown to the Balkans to help victims who have suffered the worst flooding of their history.

Three people have died and thousands are stranded after rivers burst their banks in Serbia and Bosnia and landslides buried homes.

Graham Libby and Robin Bates, from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, flew to Belgrade on Saturday as part of the UK's 33-man International Search and Rescue team.

They will help run an operations base in the Balkans, providing food, water and tented accommodation, for the water rescue crews.

Nomination call

BASINGSTOKE MP Maria Miller is urging people to nominate the town's inspirational young people for the British Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen Award.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the national awards.

This award scheme is open to anyone aged 25 or under and celebrates the achievements of young people in one of four categories - first aid, volunteering, community action and fundraising.

To apply go to redcross.org.uk/theaward by July 27.

Business awards

THE Hampshire Business Awards are open to entries until June 20.

Companies across Basingstoke can enter the annual business awards in four categories - responsibility and sustainability, company of the year, management team of the year, and technical innovation.

Winners will be announced at an awards evening in Winchester Guildhall on September 30.

For more details or to enter go to hampshirebusinessawards.co.uk



Pet cemetery wins big

A PET crematorium run by a family near Hook was given a national business award by TV personality Mary Portas at a London ceremony last week.

Dignity Pet Crematorium, off Odiham Road, Winchfield, is now the final resting place of more than 6,000 pets from budgies to Great Danes.

Judges called the business "probably the most unusual entry we have every had but probably the most innovative too."

It won the home business innovation category at the Guardian Small Business Showcase Awards out of more than 1,000 entries.

The idea was thought up 22 years ago by Barry and Carole Spurgeon.

The pair were shocked into action after watching a documentary on what happened to dead pets when they were left at the vets.

Mr Spurgeon, 79, said: "I watched with a mixture of shock and anger and thought that I would not allow my pets were to be treated like that; so I decided to do something about it."

The couple turned a derelict Victorian Brick Kiln in their garden into a place where people could give their much loved pets a dignified send off.

The business is now run by three generations of the family.

Son Kevin Spurgeon said: "This award is a real honour and a fitting tribute to my parents, Barry and Carole."

"We are dedicating the award to my parents but especially to my mother, who sadly passed away very recently after battling Alzheimer's Disease for the past 6-and-a-half years."

It was first pet crematorium in the UK meaning owners could be laid to rest next to their pets.

In April Mrs Spurgeon's ashes were laid to rest in the grounds next to two of her beloved German Shepherds and those of her mother Helen.

Install a water softener and banish limescale!

Hard water is something we are all used to in the South, although most of us have got used to putting up with it, many do not realise that you can do something about it. It furs up our heating systems, causing breakdowns, makes it more expensive to heat our homes and damages our appliances.

The other problem with limescale is the constant cleaning of showerheads, shower screens, stainless steel sinks, the whole house can suffer where water is concerned. Limescale aggravates skin problems such as eczema and psoriasis.

With a water softener no limescale will get into the house, which means you will have to do less cleaning, stop buying limescale-related products, cut washing powder use by up to 75% and have less chance of large bills for potential future problems with your heating system and appliance breakdowns. If you were to purchase an ordinary softener you would have quite a large machine, which requires you to set clocks and lug around a 25kg bag of salt. The TwinTec S3 is different. It is small, requires no electricity and uses block salt (like two house bricks) instead of heavy bags.

Harvey Softeners has been manufacturing softeners in this area for more than 30 years. Kevin Goody (UK Water Softeners) is one of Harveys top TwinTec dealers and was voted number two in the country last year.

Why is Kevin so successful?

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• *Psychic Sally Morgan brings her show to the Anvil. See overleaf.*



Sally's psychic ways

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Spirits at The Anvil

PSYCHIC Sally Morgan is bringing her special abilities to Basingstoke, as she discusses the afterlife in her new show on Wednesday.

Sally claims to have first realised her psychic talent as a child, and started giving readings to her friends as a teenager.

She recounts her first psychic experience at four-years-old when she saw an old man in her nursery.

She added: "I asked my teacher why my granddad couldn't be with me, who told me that no-one was allowed their granddad in the class with them. So I pointed at a girl in my class and asked why she was allowed."

"I could see as clear as day an old man dressed in a full length coat stood next to this girl, so the teacher asked me where this man was and so I went right up to him and pointed."

"The man smiled at me and then just disappeared. No-one else in the room saw him."

Since then Sally has built up an extensive client list for psychic readings, including Katie Price, George

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



Michael and Princess Diana.

And Sally will be attempting to communicate with the spirits "waiting in the wings" at The Anvil.

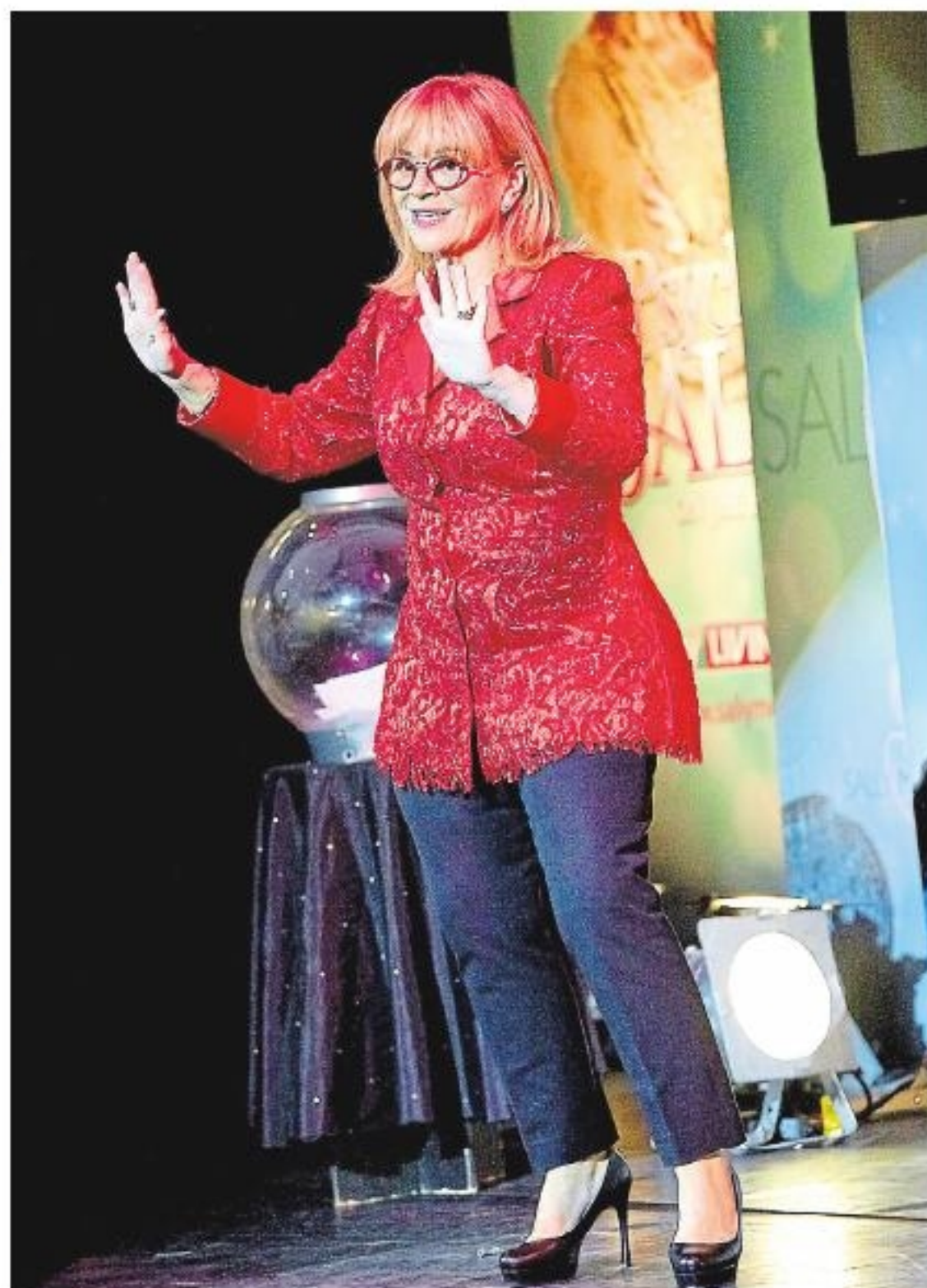
"My live shows are completely unpredictable," she said. "I get a real buzz from being on stage, the atmosphere can be electric and the way the messages move around the audience is fascinating."

"Obviously at times it can be difficult as with so many messages - it is like having 10 radios playing and trying to tune into one of them."

"Overall the tour is about sharing the thought of an afterlife and showcasing how these moments of connection can be utterly astounding."

"My hope is that people can take comfort from just witnessing this if they do not get a message themselves."

The show starts at 7.30pm. To book go to anvilarts.org.uk.



New talent

SINGER Eska brings her unique sound to The Forge tomorrow to perform debut single Gatekeeper.

Billed as one of music's best-kept secrets, Eska has attracted support from Jazz star Jamie Cullum.

Her style contains hints of folk, soul, psychedelica and electronica with lyrics based on church stories.

Show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15.

Pub duck race

A **DUCK** race at Barton's Mill Pub, Old Basing, on Bank Holiday Monday is raising money for transport charity Basingstoke Dial-A-Ride.

Hundreds of plastic ducks will be raced down the river by the pub.

The winner gets two seats in a private plane, while the second prize is a balloon ride.

Tickets are £1 and the day starts from around 12.30pm.

Airport talk

AUTHOR and journalist Alan Gallop is at Basingstoke Discovery Centre today to talk about controversies at Heathrow Airport.

He spent more than 10 years working at the airport and will use first-hand stories to bring its history to life.

The £3 show starts at 2pm.

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Guitarist is in spotlight

AMERICAN blues and rock guitarist Marc Ford comes to Hampshire on Monday, following the release of his latest album 'Holy Ghost' last month.

Marc is best known as the lead guitarist with the Black Crowes, although he has also forged an extensive solo career collaborating with a number of other acts.

'Holy Ghost' comes after Marc produced Bristol-based band Phantom Limb's second album 'The Pines' in 2012, and he realised Limb would be ideally suited to play on his record.

"I'd been waiting on these songs for a while," said Marc. "Then it just dawned on me Phantom Limb is the perfect band for this."

"I've used a couple of bands, and although I could have made the record with them, it didn't seem right, there wasn't the perfect fit."

"I would have had to tailor some people or some songs, and it didn't seem to make sense."

The songs on 'Holy Ghost' are made up of material Marc has kept to one

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



side - some of the tracks are more than 15-years-old.

He held off releasing the songs earlier to take a break and find a band to work with on the album.

"I just needed to drop out for a little bit," Marc added. "It was the first time I got to be at home in five years."

"We moved to San Clemente (California), which is a little surf town, and the pace here is slower."

"It really is a small town feeling, a lot of acoustic guitar playing, and I think all that reflects on the record."

"Maybe people still want me to be a guitar hero and that's it, but I'm determined to change that mindset."

Doors open for Monday's show at The Railway, Winchester, at 8pm. For more details, go to railwaylive.co.uk.

• Marc Ford (Picture by Jessie Lee Cederblom)



Half term fun

THE Proteus Creation Space is set for a day of half term fun next Thursday with a mix of activities for children.

A secret cinema screening starts the day, followed by a puppet making workshop and ending with a disco.

It will run from 10am until 5pm, and cost £15 per child. For more details go to proteustheatre.com.

Music mix-up

JOE Brown and his five-piece band come to The Anvil tomorrow evening, with their mix of rockabilly, gospel, country, folk and rock and roll music.

The singer-guitarist has worked in the industry for more than five decades, and comes to Basingstoke with son Pete Brown and fellow band members Phil Capaldi, Ben Lee and Mike Nichols.

It starts at 7.45pm. For more information, go to anvilarts.org.uk.

Sport activities

HALF term sports courses for five to 11-year-olds are back at The Vyne School from Monday to Friday next week.

A range of sports will be on offer, from football and rugby to alternatives like fencing and floorball.

To find out more, go to chewits.premiersport.org.

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What's on in HAMPSHIRE

LISTINGS

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for the full guide of what to see and do in Hampshire

28 May 2014, 7:45pm
The Forge
AN EVENING WITH SAM BAKER



22 May 2014 - 24 May 2014
The Haymarket

CARRIE'S WAR

When the Second World War air raids threaten their safety in the city, Carrie Willow and her brother Nick are evacuated to a small village in the Welsh countryside. Billed with the kind but timid Auntie Lou and her miserly brother, Mr Evans, the children quickly learn that this is a place unlike any they have ever known and begin to discover the joys, and terrors, the countryside possesses. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

23 May 2014, 7pm - 12:30am
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke
BLACK TIE CHARITY AUCTION

"Black tie charity auction raising money for the national autistic society, 3 course dinner, wine and disco. Items for auction range from sports memorabilia to local spa days, tickets are available at £25pp. 3run are the special guests running the auction." 7414915288

23 May 2014
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www.farnhammaltings.com

23 May 2014, 7pm - 12am
Red lion hotel Basingstoke
BLACK TIE CHARITY AUCTION

"Charity auction in aid of the National autistic society, special guest are 3run and Luke UPTON.

Ticket prices £25 over 16 only,

Price inc 3 course meal, auction, dining by Luke UPTON and disco." 07414915288

23 May 2014, 7:45pm
The Anvil
JOE BROWN IN CONCERT
Joe, with his five piece band including his son, will be on stage all evening and the musical styles incorporated in to this new show are as unique as the man himself. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

23 May 2014, 8pm
The Forge

ESKA
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pairs them with stirring lyrics. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

28 May 2014, 11am - 4pm
Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, RG7 5NT
UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST VISIT WEDNESDAY'S

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28 May 2014, 7:45pm
The Forge
AN EVENING WITH SAM BAKER

Sam Baker is a man of few words. Always beautifully chosen, and fully wrought. He turned inward, to relearn the use of his body and brain, after a Peruvian train bombing almost killed him in 1986. It's taken years to heal; time to reconnect.

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www.anvilarts.org.uk

31 May 2014, 7pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College
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31 May 2014, 8pm - 11pm
Fox and Hounds, Tadley, RG26 3Jg
ACOUSTIC ALL SORTS
FREE ENTRY live music from We are the Brutus, Silver Fox, Stephen Grigsby, Rob Hayes and Mike Page. 07811728009

31 May 2014, 7:30pm
The Haymarket
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Ballet Cymru perform the story of a ruined merchant, lost and desperate in a deep forest; an exquisite garden by a magical palace; an enchanted Beast, furious and lonely; a promise to the merchant's youngest daughter, Beauty; a perfect red rose. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

4 Jun 2014, 8pm
The Anvil
BRIAN CONLEY
There will be singing, laughs and much, much more in this latest variety showcase from one of Britain's most loved performers. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

5 Jun 2014, 8pm
The Forge
HAT FITZ & CARA
Hat Fitz is a veteran wild man of the blues scene in Australia. Cara has a sensational voice and also plays washboards, flute and tin whistle,

sometimes all at once. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

5 Jun 2014, 7:45pm
The Anvil
THE COUNTERFEIT STONES
LET'S PRETEND THE NIGHT TOGETHER

Why pay a fortune to slip around in the mud of Glastonbury when for a fraction of the price you can experience the faking brilliance of the Counterfeit Stones. Their latest shakedown, Let's Pretend The Night Together promises a night of pure, unadulterated Xerox-rock. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

6 Jun 2014, 7:30pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
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Come along to play at Central Studio, or just come to hear some of the most talented musicians in Basingstoke. Everybody welcome, from professionals to first time performers." www.centralstudio.co.uk

6 Jun 2014, 10am - 1pm
The Cross House, Silchester Rd., Bramley
DISCOVER YOUR PASSIONS (WORKSHOP)

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

8				6		9	2	
1	5					7	4	
			7	1		3		6
		1	6				9	
3	9		5		2		6	4
	7				4	8		
4		2		5	7			
	8	3					1	5
	6	9		2				3

1		9				6		7
	5						2	
	2		6		7		4	
		8		3		5		
	3		5		1		9	
		1		9		2		
	6		7		4		8	
	8						1	
7		4				3		5

	9				4			
5				1			3	
	2	1			8	7		
			2				7	3
		3				1		
9	6				5			
		5	8			3	6	
	4			7				2
			6				5	

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 1 North American fish dish (7)
- 5 Cured meat (5)
- 8 Rouse (4)
- 9 Grace (8)
- 10 In a style of building (13)
- 13 Stimulus (4)
- 14 Elliptical (4)
- 17 Place of business (13)
- 19 Confidence (8)
- 20 Grass with hollow stem (4)
- 21 Having got up (5)
- 22 Worthless (7)

Quick Clues Down

- 2 Those with strong dislikes (6)
- 3 Reverence (7)
- 4 Concerned with voting (9)
- 5 Narrow-minded person (5)
- 6 Exercise authority over (7)
- 7 Irritates (7)
- 11 Places of religious seclusion (9)
- 12 More obvious (7)
- 13 Pays up (7)
- 15 Naval officer (7)
- 16 Enrages (6)
- 18 Seat of the intellect (5)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 A sailor, mark, will do without (7)
- 5 The peak reached by a hundred with the remainder following (5)
- 8 Strikes back to kill (4)
- 9 Ban the former list (8)
- 10 Being urged to use too little steam? (5,8)
- 13 A sure way to set a trap (4)
- 14 The advantage of being on the outside (4)
- 17 Examination of how to bury the prayer (13)
- 19 Out or inside contempt (8)
- 20 Time to go back and give out (4)
- 21 Sees a new way and relaxes (5)
- 22 Communication about the turmoil of the era? (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 2 Mr Crosby takes it up in mordant fashion (6)
- 3 Picture forbidden round the meadow (7)
- 4 Are opting out to get the highest speed (2,3,4)
- 5 Suits the societies (5)
- 6 Period certain to be scrubbed out? (7)
- 7 Put us after these to kill the Minotaur (7)
- 11 The outcome when the crisis had a different end? (9)
- 12 Can the end slip out of the yarn-holder? (7)
- 13 Gets weary again when he leaves work (7)
- 15 Deduces that the gun belongs to a lady (7)
- 16 Expecting to nip up and have an unfair share outside (6)
- 18 Unruly tress is at ease (5)

1	2		3		4			5		6		7
8					9							
10							11					
12		13					14		15			
											16	
17				18								
19									20			
21						22						

Scribble space

Last week's solutions

3	1	7	4	6	9	5	8	2
2	5	4	8	1	7	6	3	9
9	6	8	5	3	2	1	4	7
5	2	9	7	8	4	3	1	6
7	4	6	3	5	1	2	9	8
1	8	3	2	9	6	4	7	5
8	9	2	6	4	3	7	5	1
6	3	5	1	7	8	9	2	4
4	7	1	9	2	5	8	6	3

5	8	2	3	1	7	6	4	9
7	1	3	9	4	6	2	5	8
6	4	9	8	5	2	3	7	1
2	5	8	1	7	3	9	6	4
3	7	1	4	6	9	8	2	5
9	6	4	5	2	8	1	3	7
8	2	5	7	3	1	4	9	6
1	3	7	6	9	4	5	8	2
4	9	6	2	8	5	7	1	3

6	5	9	4	8	3	7	1	2
2	3	4	7	1	5	6	9	8
1	8	7	2	6	9	5	4	3
9	2	5	3	4	1	8	6	7
7	1	8	6	9	2	4	3	5
3	4	6	8	5	7	9	2	1
5	7	2	9	3	6	1	8	4
8	6	1	5	2	4	3	7	9
4	9	3	1	7	8	2	5	6

Quick Crossword

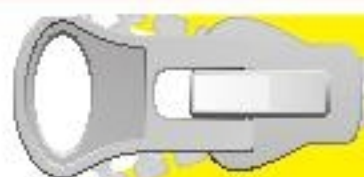
Across: 1 Upholsterer 9 Ear 10 Centipede 11 Minor 13 Amongst 14 Negate 16 Fetter 18 Titanic 19 Pacer 20 Reversals 21 His 22 Adolescents

Down: 2 Par 3 Occur 4 Sandal 5 Episode 6 Energetic 7 Germinators 8 Letterpress 12 Negative 15 Tendril 17 Scraps 19 Paste 21 Hut

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Entertained 9 Out 10 Intestate 11 Knave 13 Emerald 14 Artist 16 Stripe 18 Syringe 19 Dogma 20 Inaudible 21 Pie 22 Replacement

Down: 2 Net 3 Elite 4 Titled 15 Inspect 6 Emanating 7 Workmanship 8 Needle cases 12 Alternate 15 Synodal 17 Iambic 19 Dream 21 Pin



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FARES	Adult	Junior	JOINING STATIONS	Depart	Return
Standard Class	£85	£43	Didcot Parkway	06:15	22:15
First Class Plus	£135	£105	Oxford	06:30	22:00
Premier Dining	£209	£179	Banbury	07:00	21:30



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FARES	Adult	Junior	JOINING STATIONS	Depart	Return
Standard Class	£79	£39	Banbury	07:00	22:50
First Class Plus	£125	£95	Oxford	07:30	22:20
Premier Dining	£199	£169	Swindon	08:20	21:30

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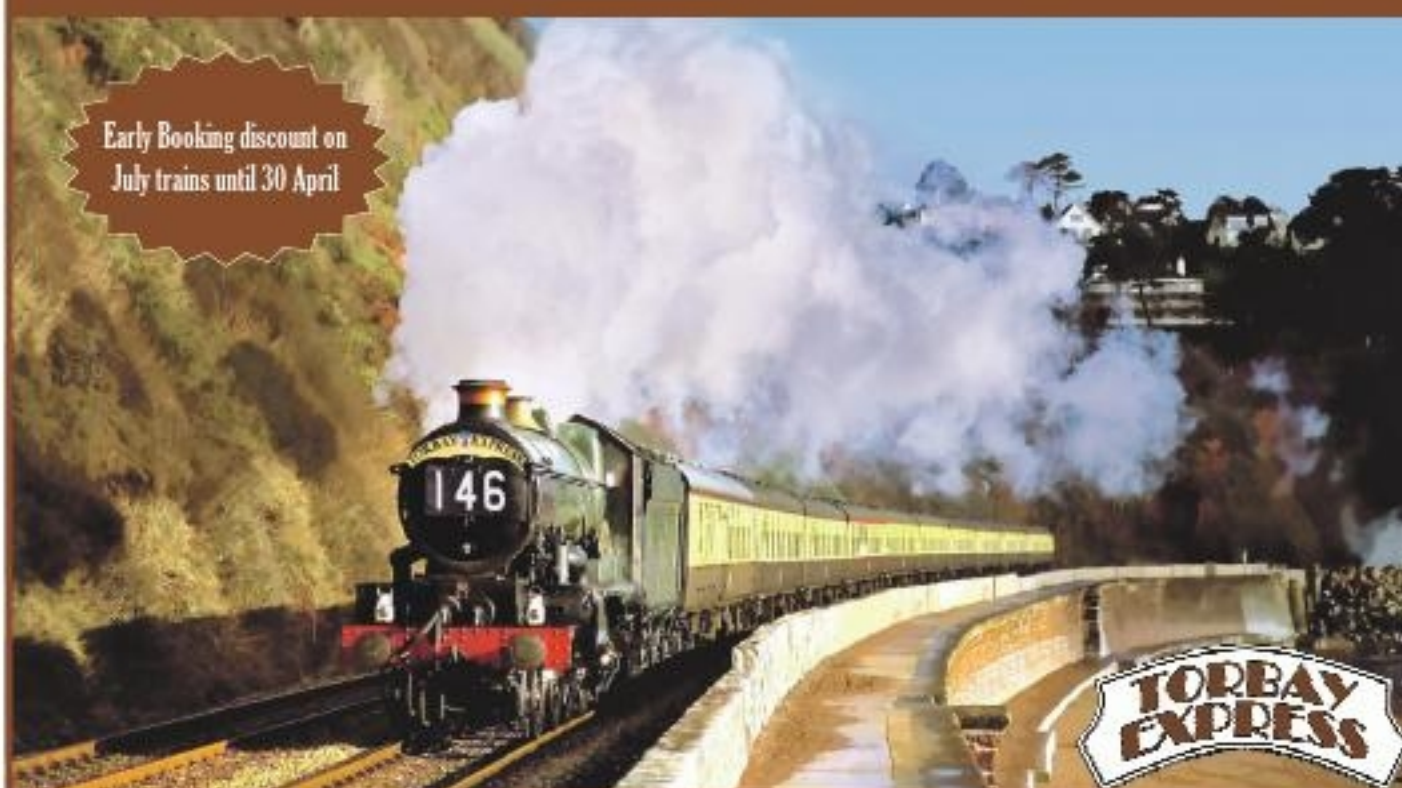


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To enter this competition

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk
Or on a postcard to Competitions, Basingstoke Observer, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN Beaulieu family tickets

ON Father's Day, Sunday 15th June, take Dad to Beaulieu for a fun-filled family day out at the Custom & Hot Rod Festival.

This popular event, in association with Victory Wheelers, the South Coast's leading Custom, American and Hot Rod club, features colourful displays of hundreds of custom cars and motorcycles, live music and entertainment, plus visitors can enjoy all the features of the Beaulieu attraction.

Anyone owning a Hot Rod, Custom or Classic American car or motorcycle can drive to Beaulieu and display their vehicle alongside hundreds of others in the beautiful grounds of the National Motor Museum.

Admire some of the quirky and unusual designs that can only be found on the colourful custom scene, and enjoy some great entertainment, as well as free rides on the fairground dodgems*. You can also browse a number of trade stands selling clothing, Americana memorabilia, merchandise, accessories and the latest custom magazines.

Visitors will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite vehicle in the People's Choice Award, sponsored by Willydog Hotdogs, with the winner receiving a special trophy in an afternoon prize-giving ceremony. Prizes will also be awarded in a number of

Closing date:

Friday, June 6, 2014

categories to include Best In Show and Best In Class.

Admission to the Festival includes entry to the whole Beaulieu attraction, which features the National Motor Museum, World of Top Gear, Beaulieu Abbey, Palace House and the grounds and gardens, plus unlimited rides on the high-level monorail and open-topped veteran London bus.

All-inclusive advance event admission tickets are available to buy at a discounted rate online at www.beaulieushop.co.uk or on Ticket Hotline 01590 612888. The show opens to the public from 10am.

For more information about the Custom and Hot Rod Festival, visit www.beaulieucustomfestival.co.uk or join the conversation with @Beaulieu Hants on Twitter using #customfestival

*Subject to availability

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day out and all you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is answer this simple question:

Q: In which county is Beaulieu?



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Smash your weight loss target this summer

Thirty-four-year-old Rafic Massih hung up his racket when he struggled with his weight. 'I remember playing a game of tennis and I could barely move my legs to chase the ball. My weight affected me in every aspect. I couldn't even bend down to tie my shoe laces without having trouble breathing.'

Rafic joined **LighterLife Basingstoke** Counsellor Claire Bonner and lost 3st 12lbs in just 4 months. 'When the pounds started coming off, I was shocked that I'd actually found an answer to losing weight.'

'Thanks to LighterLife, I'm the fittest I've ever been in my life. Food no longer comes first - my health and happiness does'

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Thursday 5th June

Bournemouth £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 15th June

Swansea and the 21st Festival of Transport on Father's Day

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 28th June

Sanders Garden World & Burnham-on-Sea

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

July

Saturday 12th July

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Tuesday 29th July

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Saturday 2nd August

The Kentish Klipper - Sevenoaks and Royal Tunbridge Wells

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Tuesday 5th August

Gosport Market & Lee-on-the-Solent £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 7th August

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Tuesday 12th August

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Thursday 14th August

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Sunday 31st August

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Saturday 8th November

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Saturday 22nd November

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Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 29th November

Bath Christmas Market

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

December

Saturday 6th December

Brugge Christmas Market

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Route 'X' - £42.50 per person - (no child reduction)

Sunday 14th December

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The Honda Civic scooped an award for milage rates at Honest John car website Drivers vote Honda top car

THE Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC was awarded the best Real MPG vehicle this month at the Honest John car awards for 2014.

The awards for popular car website Honest John asked drivers to submit how many miles their cars actually do to the gallon and collated more than 50,000 entries, covering all major manufacturers and models.

The Honda Civic scored the best total for the past 12 months, with an impressive average of 66.2mpg.

Honest John's Real MPG calculator was launched in June 2011 to offer a real world alternative to official quoted MPG figures.

The website also rated the 1.6 i-DTEC engine as best small diesel on the market.

Dan Harrison, editor of honest-john.co.uk said: "We rate the Honda 1.6 i-DTEC engine as the best small diesel on the market with its refined nature and impressive performance. And further enhancing its appeal is its real world fuel economy."

"Figures submitted to Real MPG over the last 12 months show a realistic economy figure of 66.2mpg.

REVIEW: Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC

By **Katriona Ormiston**

@writeonmotoring

"At a time when running costs are a key factor in choosing a car, the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC makes a very strong case for itself."

Leon Brannan, head of cars at Honda UK, said: "This award once again confirms the incredible efficiency of the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC and the reputation of its light but powerful engine as the best small diesel on the UK market."

"With ratings based on the experiences of thousands of everyday drivers, these figures show just how the Civic performs in real-world conditions."

The Honda Civic combines fuel economy and performance - emitting 94 g/km of CO2 with a powerful 120PS.

The engine was the first to be launched in Europe under Honda's environmental programme called Earth Dreams Technology.

The Best Real MPG award came hot on the heels of Honest John naming Honda as the top performing manufacturer for MoT pass rates.



• The Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC



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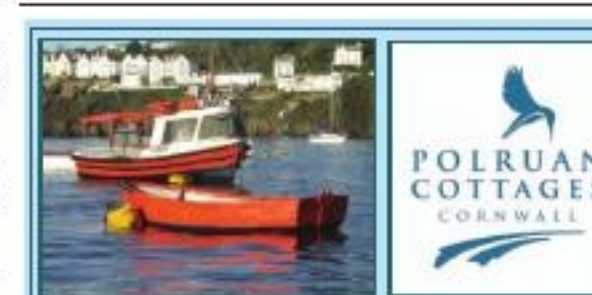
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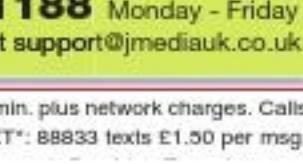
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Bristow adds local boy Bird to squad

BASINGTOKE Town have continued to add to their squad this week, with left-back Tom Bird returning for a second spell at the club.

The defender, who grew up in Old Basing, broke into the first team as a youngster in 2008, and returns to the Camrose for the 2014-15 season.

Bird played for Hayes & Yeading in the Skrill South last season

By Jack Johnson

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and returns to the Dragons as a direct replacement for Adam Green, who has signed for league rivals Dartford.

The full-back made his name on the Sky One TV series 'Football Idol' when he finished in third

place and was rewarded with a six-month contract at Premiership club Chelsea.

Manager Jason Bristow said he was delighted to welcome Bird back to the club.

"Tom is a local player who has expressed a real desire to play for his home town club again," said Bristow.

"He has a great attitude and I'm sure he will do well for us."

Earlier this week, Shaun Macauley and Andrew Jenkinson agreed terms to stay with the club.

Jenkinson was released by Reading last summer and signed for Basingstoke after an impressive trial period. After breaking into the starting eleven he made 33 starts, scoring three goals.

Macauley and Jenkinson join Liam Enver-Marum, Simon

Dunn, Nathan Smart, Jay Gasson and Robbie Rice in penning new deals.

Elsewhere, Town have announced friendlies ahead of their pre-season preparations.

Bristow's men will play Sky Bet League One side Yeovil Town on July 12 and League Two outfit Newport County on July 22, as well as Winchester City on July 8.

Sport Bites

Bison captain to stay with squad for fifth season

NICKY Chinn is set to return as Basingstoke Bison captain next season, for what will be his fifth campaign with the Herd.

Chinn is the third highest British points scorer of all time in the English Ice Hockey Premier League with 228 points, adding 40 to his total last season.

He said: "I really enjoyed last season, and it was special lifting a couple of trophies which was what I wanted to do when I joined Basingstoke."

"It is a real honour to be the captain again. I enjoy the role, passing on my knowledge to the young kids on the team."

Bison player/coach Doug Sheppard was pleased with his signing.

He said: "He is a player who wants to win trophies and is a great leader both on and off the ice."

Ladies prepare for their final match of the year

BASINGSTOKE Town Ladies are preparing for their final game of the season on Sunday, as they host Woodley United.

The hosts will finish sixth in the Women's Football League Southern Region Premier Division regardless of the result, but will be hoping to end their campaign with a strong performance.

Woodley are currently second and have only lost once all season.

Badminton team are runners up in county knock-out competition

BADMINTON players Fiona Garnett, Lisa Moran, Anu Davies, Lee Frith, Gareth Jones and Andy King reached the final of the Hampshire District Knock-Out Competition.

The Basingstoke squad beat Winchester in the semi-final 350-318, despite having trailed 81-68 in the early stages.

They were able to set up a final against Southampton, but ultimately lost 333-323 in a match that saw the lead change several times.



Sibling success for Britain at showjumping championships

BROTHER and sister showjumpers Scarlett and Harry Charles both tasted success in Belgium on Saturday, helping Great Britain to victory in two categories.

The pair, from Alton, whose father is former Olympic gold medallist Peter Charles MBE,

both showcased their talent representing the British showjumping youth team in Bonheiden.

Scarlett, 13, started the day on the 14-year-old bay mare Cherona Z, jumping double clear to finish on a zero penalty score.

Her performance helped Great Britain take a comfortable win

in the Children's Nations Cup, finishing ahead of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands in the event.

And later the same day, Harry, 14, helped his team win the Pony's Nations Cup riding his father's 17-year-old grey gelding Aroldo.

In his first round Harry jumped all the fences clear, but incurred a time penalty after stopping the clock just outside the time allowed.

There were no mistakes in the second round, as he again rode faultlessly but within the allotted time.

It helped Great Britain to another win, this time finishing ahead of the Netherlands and Belgium.

• Scarlett Charles (right) with her team-mates (from left) Will Edwards, Jack Whitaker and Tara Byrrt

Unbeaten start to league for Basingstoke and North Hants

BASINGSTOKE and North Hants Cricket Club's strong start to the season continued on Saturday, with a 133 run victory away to Fawley.

The visitors batted first and set a target of 329-7 from their

50 overs, including a 79 from Daniel Coombs and a 66 from Chris Froud.

And Fawley could only get to 196-9 in reply, giving Basingstoke their second Southern Division One win of the season.

Basingstoke are currently second in the standings with an average points total of 21, one behind current leaders New Milton.

In the same division, Hook and Newnham Basics were beaten

at home to Hambledon, after the hosts were bowled out for 173.

It took just over 40 overs for Hambledon to reach the total, as they finished on 174-5.

Elsewhere, Hartley Wintney won their Southern Division

Two fixture at home to Langley Manor, after bowling the visitors out for 173.

Wintney scored 259 from their 50 overs, with a century from opener Jack Hersh helping them on their way to the win.

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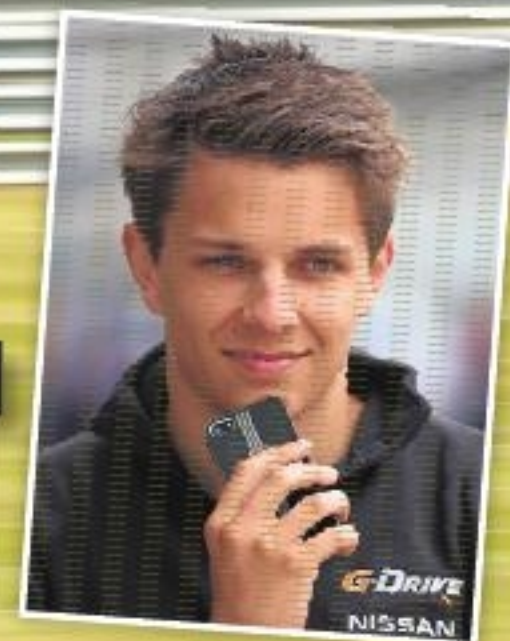
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BRAND NEW STORE

Inside: Bristow adds local boy Bird to squad | Bison captain to stay with squad for fifth season

Hamilton set to drive at Le Mans for second time

BACK IN THE DRIVING SEAT



Archie Hamilton and the Ferrari 458 Italia he will drive in this year's Le Mans 24 Hours

BASINGSTOKE racing driver Archie Hamilton is set to make his second Le Mans 24 Hours appearance next month, after being announced in Ram Racing's line-up for the renowned event.

This year's race will be taking place over the weekend of June 14 and 15, and will see the 22-year-old driving the number 53 Ferrari 458 Italia in the LMGTE Am class.

By Adam Flinn

news@basingsstokeobserver.co.uk

Archie's drive was announced last Thursday, and will see him compete alongside fellow British driver Johnny Mowlem and the American Mark Patterson.

It follows Archie's debut in the race last

year with the LMP2 class Oreca Nissan for the G-Drive team, which came to an early end as the team were forced to retire with accident damage.

"I'm really thrilled to be heading back to Le Mans again and to be with such a great team is fantastic," said Archie.

"Firstly I must thank Dan [Shufflebottom, team principal] at Ram Racing for this opportunity. I've spent a bit of time with them and I've already

learned a lot.

"To be working with Johnny is an opportunity in itself but Dan and the team are incredibly professional.

"Last year I cut my teeth with G-Drive at the track and we had great pace, but unfortunately a team-mate crashing ended our race. This year I would love to finish and barring disasters I can't see why we shouldn't do well.

"I will do my best to train and prepare

hard, and do my job to the best of my ability to achieve that."

Archie is once again following in his family's footsteps at Le Mans, after his grandfather Duncan was part of the winning team in 1953 in a works C-Type Jaguar.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Duncan's fourth appearance in the race, in which he finished second in a Jaguar D-Type.

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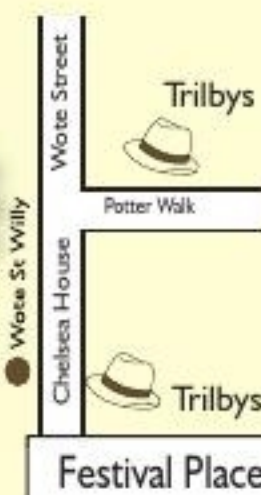
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